

REGION IX, MAINLAND REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

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MEETING SUMMARY

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

14-15 DECEMBER 1999

I. General Information:

The Region IX, Mainland Regional Response Team (MRRT) Meeting was held at the Executive Inn, Oakland, California and was Co-chaired by the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

II. Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, 14 December 1999 at 0900, by the MRRT Co-chairs CAPT Frank Whipple and Mr. Bill Robberson (alternate Co-chair). CAPT Whipple introduced himself as the new U.S. Coast Guard Co-chair and announced that his predecessor, CAPT Edward Page, was transferred to Alaska this past summer. All attendees and observers were then introduced and welcomed. During his opening remarks, CAPT Whipple announced that the first day of this MRRT meeting would focus on requests from both a Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) and industry (Clean Seas) for pre-approval of dispersant use on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel.

III. Agenda Items:

The morning session began with a request from CAPT George Wright (FOSC and Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Office Los Angeles-Long Beach) for pre-approval of dispersant use on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel. This request was followed by a dispersant overview by Ms. Heather Parker-Hall, NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator. This overview provided information on the history of dispersants, where pre-approval of dispersants currently exists within the United States, and the latest technical information available regarding the use of dispersants. LCDR Pete Gautier (MSO San Francisco Bay) and Ms. Yvonne Addasi (California Office of Spill Prevention and Response) provided information to the MRRT regarding the San Francisco Bay Ecological Risk Assessment. This workgroup identified "high risk" areas within San Francisco Bay and then formulated courses of actions to take in the event an oil spill would impact these areas. These courses of action included both the use of conventional mechanical cleanup and the use of Alternative Response Technology (ART), including the use of dispersants and in-situ burning. The morning session concluded with a briefing from Mr. Darryle Waldron (Clean Seas) regarding his experiences with the current

Quick Approval Process for the use of dispersants. The afternoon session began with an open discussion regarding the FOSC's request for pre-approval of dispersant use on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel. The afternoon ended with a consensus by the MRRT members to leave the existing Quick Approval Process (QAP) in place and to charter an Alternative Response Technology (ART) Committee/Workgroup to review the QAP, determine whether or not any changes to existing protocols should be made, and to make recommendations to the MRRT during its next meeting. The first day's meeting concluded with general announcements from the Co-chairs.

- The second day's meeting began with a presentation from Mr. Bill Robberson (Alternate Co-chair) on the results of a survey that was conducted by the MRRT last summer (nine responses were received out of 31 surveys mailed to both federal and state agencies). The survey results were discussed by MRRT members and assisted in the development of the MRRT Fiscal Year 2000 Workplan:

FY 2000 WORKPLAN: Protection of public health and the environment through OSC support and regional planning and coordination of preparedness and response actions.

Measurable Goals:

1. Regional Contingency Plan (RCP): Revise, update and maintain the RRT RCP on the internet.
 - a) The chapters of highest priority this year include:
 - Alternative Response Technologies (ART): Periodically review and consider process improvements or efficiencies in policies for the use of dispersants and in-situ burning as alternative cleanup measures appropriate for use in our region. This includes development of an Alternative Response Tool evaluation system protocol (Federal and State Agencies).
 - Communications: Review the RRT Standing Team and Incident Specific Team communication protocols. This includes the RRT web site and the NOAA First Class system for all activities, area and sub-Area Contingency Plans, and Regional Contingency Plans.
 - HAZMAT Incidents
2. Inland Area Contingency Planning: Establish an Inland Area Committee and revise, update, and maintain the RRT IACP on the internet. Revisions should be closely coordinated with state and tribal emergency response plans, existing Sub-Area Contingency Plans, and Title III local emergency response plans.
 - a) The actions of highest priority this year include:
 - Establish and provide guidance to an Inland Area Committee.
 - Update the existing IACP and via matrix integrate it with the RCP.
 - Complete a Region IX GIS inventory of known hazards and vulnerabilities.
 - Establish a state by state plan for more specific sub-Area planning, consistent with soon to be released National IACP minimum element guidance.

3. RRT Team Building: Address action items from the 1999 MRRT survey and future-direction discussion.
4. Coastal ACPs: Continue with ACP revisions, site-specific response strategy reviews, plan exercises, chart GIS conversions, and ACP postings on the internet.
5. Response Reviews: Ensure that all plans are effective through a feedback process that involves review of an incident response or exercise during each Regional Response Team meeting.

Fiscal Year 2000 Meeting Schedule:

- December 1999: Oakland, California
- February 2000: San Antonio, TX (NRT meeting)
- May 2000: Camarillo, California
- August 2000: Nevada/Arizona
- December 2000: Oakland, California

Mainland, Region IX, Regional Response Team Subcommittee's

Alternative Response Technology (ART):

CAPT Frank Whipple, USCG, Chair
LCDR Mike Gallagher, NOAA
Mr. Tim Holmes, USCG
Mr. Craig Ogawa, MMS
Ms. Heather Parker-Hall, NOAA
Mr. Dave Peck, Clean Bay
Ms. Pat Port, DOI
Mr. Bill Robberson, USEPA
Mr. Mike Sowby, OSPR
Mr. Ed Ueber, NMS

Communications:

LT Robert Sánchez, USCG, Chair
Mr. Dale Anderson, AZDEQ
Mr. Bob Brown, GSA
Mr. Rob Floerke, OSPR
Ms. Pat Port, DOI
Mr. Bill Robberson, USEPA
CAPT John Walmsley, DHHS

Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Incidents:

Mr. Michael Feeley, USEPA, Chair
Mr. Dale Anderson, AZDEQ
Ms. Tessa Badua-Larsen, FEMA
Mr. Kim McCleneghan, OSPR
Mr. Dan Roe, AZERC
Mr. Jim Walker, NVDEM
CAPT John Walmsley, DHHS
CA OES – TBD

Inland Area Contingency Plan (IACP):

Mr. Bill Robberson, USEPA, Chair
Mr. Dale Anderson, AZDEQ
Ms. Tessa Badua-Larsen, FEMA
Mr. Kim McCleneghan, OSPR
Ms. Pat Port, DOI
Mr. Dan Roe, AZERC
Mr. Jim Walker, NVDEM
CA OES – TBD

- The afternoon session began with a presentation by Mr. Donn Zuroski (Environmental Protection Agency) on EPA's Fuels Management Program. This program's goals are to establish a baseline understanding of the oil industry; establish a baseline understanding of all the agencies roles and responsibilities that regulate this industry; establish a baseline understanding of common oil spill response and removal techniques and strategies; provide a neutral forum for agencies to candidly discuss issues; and to improve Area Contingency Planning. Mr. Rob Floerke (California Office of Spill Prevention and Response) briefed the MRRT on the State of California's OSRO Re-certification program. The afternoon meeting concluded with a presentation by Mr. Richard Robison (Coast Guard Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific, Legal Division, Procurement Branch) on the legal perspectives of oil spill contracting during an incident response.
- The meeting was adjourned after general announcements were made by the Co-chairs.